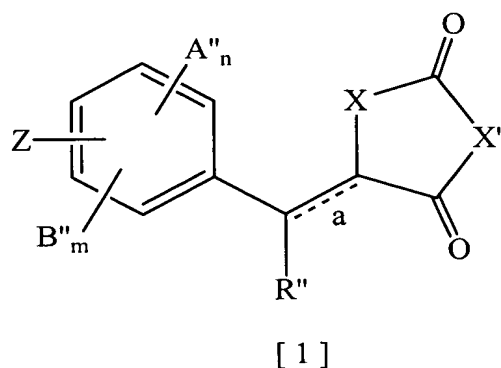


Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

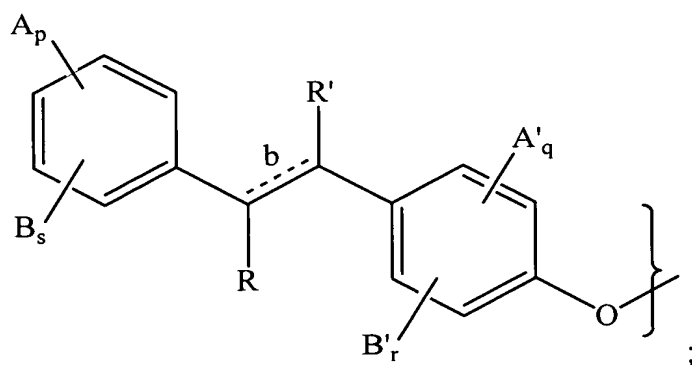
1-60. (Cancelled).

64. 1. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is



n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m < 4$ and $q + r < 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s < 5$; a and b represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OH; -OR'''; -CONR₂''''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or optionally substituted C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A'' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B'' each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; or aralkanoyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A'' and B'' jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-.

~~62-2.~~ (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~64~~1, wherein R' represents -CO₂R''', CO₂Z' or -CONR₂''''.

63-64. (Cancelled).

- ~~66.~~ 3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~62~~2, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- ~~74.~~ 4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~62~~2, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen atom.
- ~~145.~~ 5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~62~~2 wherein R' represents -CO₂R'''.
- ~~67.~~ 6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~145~~5, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- ~~125.~~ 7. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~67~~6 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.
- ~~146.~~ 9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~145~~5 wherein R''' represents methyl.
- ~~132.~~ 8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~125~~7 wherein A', A'', B' and B'' all represent hydrogen atoms.
- ~~73.~~ 10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~146~~9 wherein said A group represents methoxy.
- ~~147.~~ 11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~62~~2 wherein R' represents -CO₂Z'.
- ~~68.~~ 12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~147~~11, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~426.~~ 13. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~68~~12 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~448.~~ 14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~447~~11 wherein Z' is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion.

~~74.~~ 15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~448~~14 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.

~~449.~~ 16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~622~~ wherein R' represents $-\text{CONR}_2''''$.

~~420.~~ 17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~449~~16 wherein at least one R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom, methyl or methoxy.

~~424.~~ 18. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~449~~16, wherein both R'''' are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.

~~422.~~ 19. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~449~~16, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~427.~~ 20. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~449~~16 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~428.~~ 21. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~622~~ wherein at least two A groups represent methoxy.

~~470.~~ 22. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~622~~ wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of
3-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid,

3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylamide,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-N,N-dimethyl-acrylamide,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-N-methoxy,-N-methyl-acrylamide,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid methyl ester,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid methyl ester,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid,
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylidenemethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid, and
3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-propionic acid methyl ester.

~~65.~~ 23. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~64~~1, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~69.~~ 24. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~64~~1, wherein the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~124.~~ 25. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~69~~24 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond.

~~70.~~ 26. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~64~~1, wherein at least one A group represents methoxy.

~~72.~~ 27. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~70~~26, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen atom.

~~75.~~ 28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~70~~26 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.

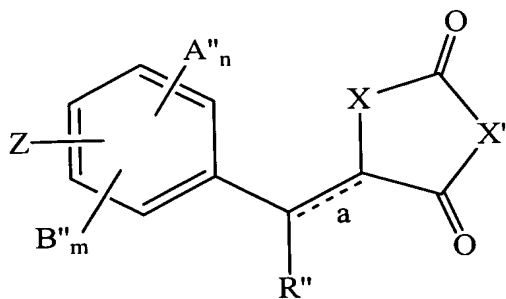
~~423.~~ 29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~64~~1 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond.

~~429.~~ 30. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~64~~1 wherein A' and B' represent hydrogen atoms.

~~430.~~ 31. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~64~~1 wherein A'' and B'' represent hydrogen atoms.

~~434.~~ 32. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~64~~1 wherein A', A'', B' and B'' all represent hydrogen atoms.

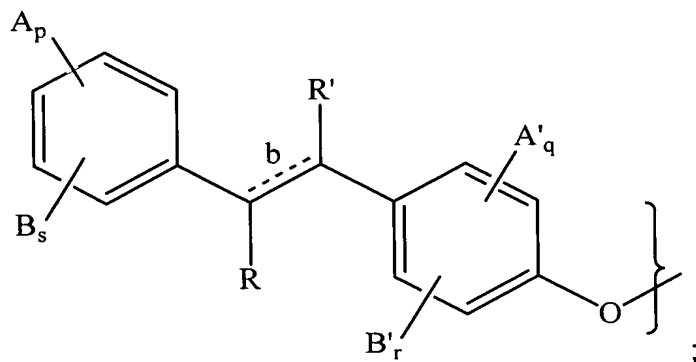
~~76.~~ 33. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



[1]

in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is



n , m , q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m < 4$ and $q + r < 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s < 5$; a and b represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R'''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR'''$; $-NR_2'''$; $-OH$; $-OR'''$; $-CONR_2'''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R'''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR'''$; $-NR_2'''$; $-OH$; $-OR'''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; or linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; or optionally substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, and A' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

A" independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; or halo;

B, B' and B" each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; or aralkanoyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR^{'''}, -O-, or -S-.

~~77.~~ 34. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~76~~33, wherein R' represents -CO₂R^{'''}, -CO₂Z' or -CONR₂^{'''}.

~~84.~~ 35. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~77~~34, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~85.~~ 36. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~77~~34, wherein at least one A group represents methoxy.

~~87.~~ 37. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~85~~36, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen atom.

~~90.~~ 38. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~85~~36 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.

~~86.~~ 39. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~77~~34, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen atom.

- ~~133-~~ 40. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~77~~34 wherein R' represents -CO₂R'''.
- ~~78-~~ 41. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~133~~40 wherein R''' represents methyl.
- ~~82-~~ 42. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~133~~40, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- ~~134-~~ 43. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~133~~40 wherein R''' represents methyl.
- ~~88-~~ 44. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~134~~43 wherein said A group represents methoxy.
- ~~442-~~ 45. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~133~~40 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.
- ~~449-~~ 46. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~133~~40 wherein A', A'', B' and B'' all represent hydrogen atoms.
- ~~135-~~ 47. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~77~~34 wherein R' represents -CO₂Z'.
- ~~83-~~ 48. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~135~~47, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.
- ~~443-~~ 49. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~135~~47 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.
- ~~436-~~ 50. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~135~~47 wherein Z' is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion.

~~89.~~ 51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~436~~50 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.

~~137.~~ 52. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~436~~50 wherein R' represents -CONR₂'".

~~79.~~ 53. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~437~~52 wherein both R'" are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.

~~138.~~ 54. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~437~~52 wherein at least one R'" independently represents a hydrogen atom, methyl or methoxy.

~~139.~~ 55. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~437~~52, wherein both R'" are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.

~~144.~~ 56. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~437~~52 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~145.~~ 57. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~77~~34 wherein at least two A groups represent methoxy.

~~80.~~ 58. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~76~~33, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~84.~~ 59. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~76~~33, wherein the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~141.~~ 60. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~84~~59 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond.

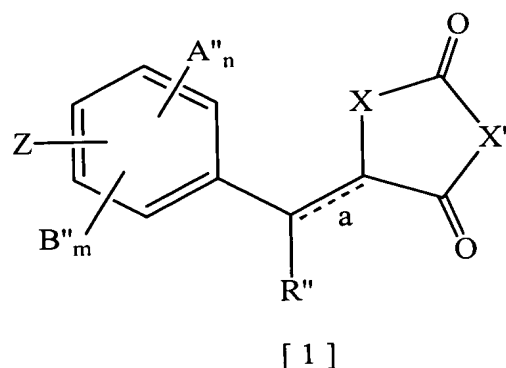
440. 61. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7633 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond.

446. 62. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 7633 wherein A' and B' represent hydrogen atoms.

447. 63. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 7633 wherein A'' and B'' represent hydrogen atoms.

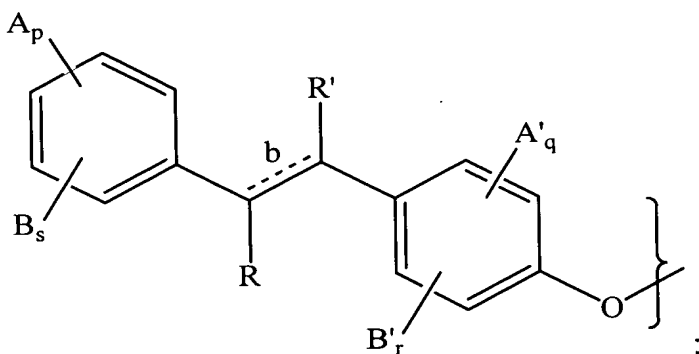
448. 64. (Currently Amended) A method of claim 7633 wherein A', A'', B' and B'' all represent hydrogen atoms.

94. 65. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:

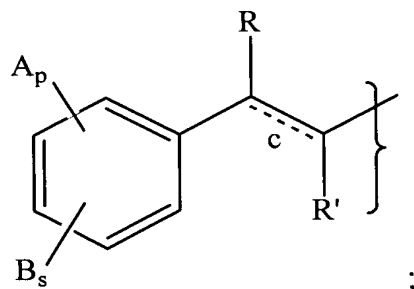


in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is



or



n , m , q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m < 4$ and $q + r < 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s < 5$; a , b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-\text{CO}_2Z'$; $-\text{CO}_2R'''$; $-\text{NH}_2$; $-\text{NHR}'''$; $-\text{NR}_2'''$; $-\text{OH}$; $-\text{OR}'''$; $-\text{CONR}_2'''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-\text{CO}_2Z'$; $-\text{CO}_2R'''$; $-\text{NH}_2$; $-\text{NHR}'''$; $-\text{NR}_2'''$; $-\text{OR}'''$; $-\text{CONR}_2'''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-\text{CO}_2Z'$; $-\text{CO}_2R'''$; $-\text{NH}_2$; $-\text{NHR}'''$; $-\text{NR}_2'''$; $-\text{OH}$; $-\text{OR}'''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; or linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R'''' independently represents a hydrogen atom; optionally substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; or optionally substituted C_1 - C_{20} alkoxy;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A" each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B" each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; or aralkanoyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A" and B" jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR^{'''}, -O-, or -S-.

~~92.~~ 66. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~94~~65, wherein R' represents -CO₂R^{'''}, CO₂Z' or -CONR₂^{'''}.

~~96.~~ 67. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~99.~~ 68. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66, wherein the bond labeled "a" represents a single bond.

~~159.~~ 69. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~99~~68 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond.

~~400.~~ 70. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66, wherein at least one A group represents methoxy.

~~402.~~ 71. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~400~~70, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen atom.

~~405.~~ 72. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~400~~70 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.

- ~~101.~~ 73. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66, wherein at least two A groups represent a hydrogen atom.
- ~~150.~~ 74. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66 wherein R' represents $\text{-CO}_2\text{R}''$.
- ~~93.~~ 75. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~150~~74 wherein R''' represents methyl.
- ~~97.~~ 76. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~150~~74, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH .
- ~~151.~~ 77. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~150~~74 wherein R''' represents methyl.
- ~~103.~~ 78. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~151~~77 wherein said A group represents methoxy.
- ~~160.~~ 79. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~150~~74 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.
- ~~152.~~ 80. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66 wherein R' represents $\text{-CO}_2\text{Z}'$.
- ~~98.~~ 81. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~152~~80, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH .
- ~~153.~~ 82. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~152~~80 wherein Z' is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion.
- ~~104.~~ 83. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~153~~82 wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion is selected from sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, ammonium, tromethamine, or tetramethylammonium.

~~161.~~ 84. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~152~~80 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~154.~~ 85. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~92~~66 wherein R' represents -CONR₂'".

~~94.~~ 86. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~154~~85 wherein both R'" are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.

~~155.~~ 87. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~154~~85 wherein at least one R'" independently represents a hydrogen atom, methyl or methoxy.

~~156.~~ 88. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~155~~87 wherein both R'" are the same and represent a hydrogen atom, methyl, or methoxy.

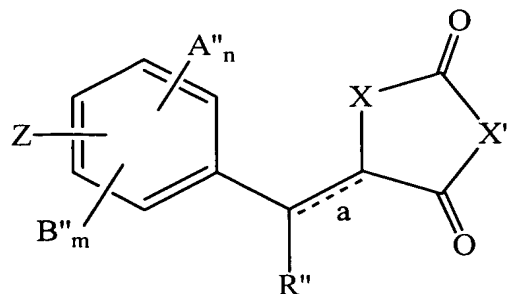
~~157.~~ 89. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~154~~85, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~162.~~ 90. (Currently Amended) A method of claim ~~154~~85 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond and the bond labeled "a" in formula I represents a single bond.

~~95.~~ 91. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~91~~65, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~158.~~ 92. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~91~~65 wherein the bond labeled "b" in formula I represents a double bond.

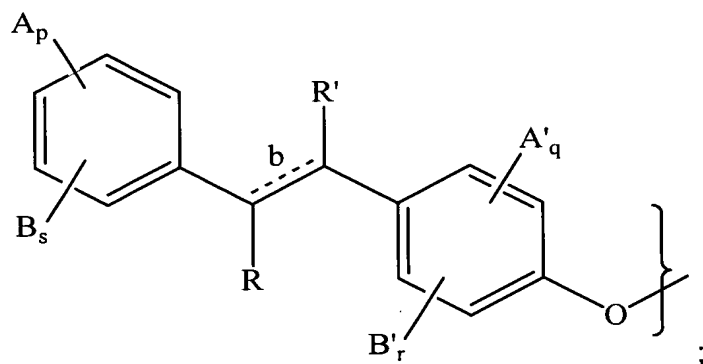
~~106.~~ 93. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



[1]

in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is



n , m , q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m < 4$ and $q + r < 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s < 5$; a and b represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R'''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR'''$; $-NR_2'''$; $-OH$; $-OR'''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R'''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR'''$; $-NR_2'''$; $-OH$; $-OR'''$; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A'' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B'' each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; or aralkanoyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A'' and B'' jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-.

~~407.~~ 94. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~406~~93, wherein R' represents -CO₂R''' or CO₂Z'.

~~409.~~ 95. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~407~~94, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

~~463.~~ 96. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~407~~94 wherein R' represents -CO₂R'''.

~~464.~~ 97. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~463~~96 wherein R''' represents methyl.

~~467.~~ 98. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~463~~96, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

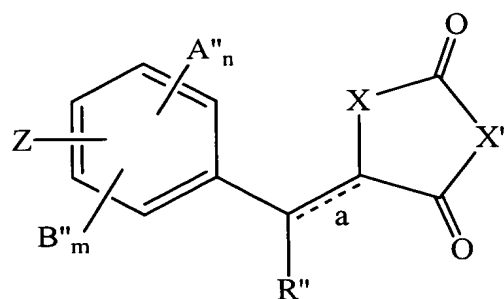
~~465.~~ 99. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~407~~94 wherein R' represents -CO₂Z'.

166. 100. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16599 wherein Z' is a pharmaceutically acceptable counter ion.

168. 101. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16599, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

108. 102. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10693, wherein X is -S- and X' is >NH.

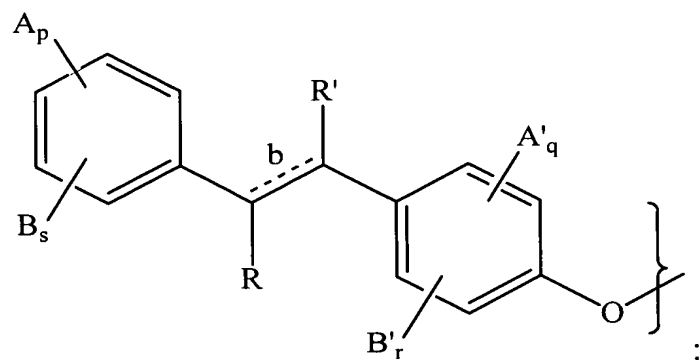
140. 103. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



[1]

in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is



n, m, q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m < 4$ and $q + r < 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s < 5$; a and b represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when

present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R and R' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, and A' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

A'' independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; or halo;

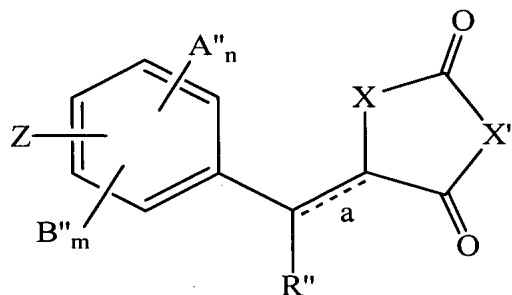
B, B' and B'' each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; or aralkanoyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A'' and B'' jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-.

~~144.~~ 104. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a

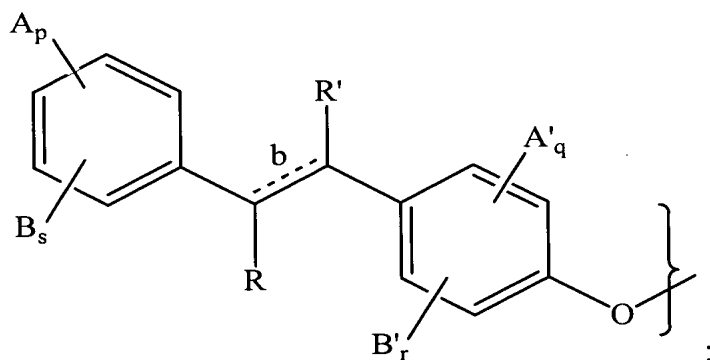
therapeutically effective amount of a compound represented by the following formula 1:



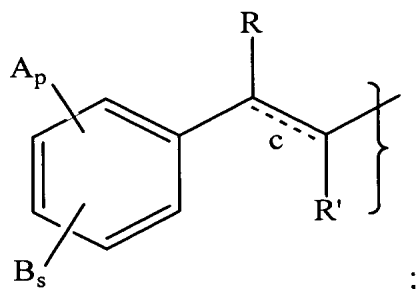
[1]

in a physiologically acceptable carrier;

wherein Z is



or



n , m , q and r independently represent integers from zero to 4 provided that $n + m < 4$ and $q + r < 4$; p and s independently represent integers from zero to 5 provided that $p + s < 5$; a , b and c represent double bonds which may be present or absent; when present, the double bonds may be in the E or Z configuration and, when absent, the resulting stereocenters may have the R- or S- configuration;

R independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C_1 - C_{20} alkyl; linear or branched C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl; $-CO_2Z'$; $-CO_2R'''$; $-NH_2$; $-NHR'''$; $-NR_2'''$; $-OH$; $-OR'''$;

halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OR'''; -CONR₂'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R'' independently represents a hydrogen atom; linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl; -CO₂Z'; -CO₂R'''; -NH₂; -NHR'''; -NR₂'''; -OH; -OR'''; halogen atom; optionally substituted linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; optionally substituted linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

R''' independently represents a linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or linear or branched C₂-C₂₀ alkenyl;

Z' represents a hydrogen atom or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

A, A' and A'' each independently represent a hydrogen atom; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkylamino; C₁-C₂₀ alkylcarboxylamino; carboxyl; cyano; halo; or hydroxy;

B, B' and B'' each independently represent; C₂-C₂₀ alkenoyl; aroyl; or aralkanoyl;

or A and B jointly, A' and B' jointly, or A'' and B'' jointly, independently represent a methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy group; and

X and X' independently represent >NH, >NR''', -O-, or -S-.

~~442.~~ 105. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of 3-(3,5-dimethoxyphenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxothiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylic acid in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

~~113.~~ 106. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of 3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-acrylamide in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

~~114.~~ 107. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of 5-(4-(4-(1-carbomethoxy-2-(3,5-dimethoxy phenyl)-ethenyl)-phenoxy)-benzyl)-2,4-thiazolidinedione in a physiologically acceptable carrier.

~~169.~~ 108. (Currently Amended) A method of treating diabetes comprising the steps of administering to a subject suffering from a diabetic condition, a therapeutically effective amount of 3-(3,5-dimethoxy-phenyl)-2-{4-[4-(2,4-dioxo-thiazolidin-5-ylmethyl)-phenoxy]-phenyl}-N,N-dimethyl-acrylamide, a physiologically acceptable carrier.